

### **Scripture ~ Matthew 26:36-41**

*<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." <sup>40</sup> Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

### **Reflection for Adults**

Many of us can remember exactly where they were on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. We watched and listened to the news of terrorist planes flying into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. And then, as the impact of just how many lives had been lost began to register, a great sorrow gripped the nation and the world. And we were reminded of how much we need one another.

At this first station, in the Garden of Gethsemane, we encounter Jesus in his moment of deepest sorrow and pain. But notice he is not alone. He took his most trusted friends – Peter, James, and John – with him as he began the painful journey that would ultimately lead to new life.

While most of us will not make history-altering decisions in our lifetimes, we all have moments of deep sorrow when we need to be surrounded by the love of our friends. Take a look at the picture. How many tears do you see? As you begin this journey to the cross with Jesus, remember you are not alone.

### **Going Deeper**

- When have you faced a crisis and needed to turn to others for support or prayer?
- How did it make you feel to have to rely on them?

### **Reflection for Children**

Jesus spent the night before he died with his friends at the Last Supper. He was very sad because he knew that one of his friends, Judas Iscariot, would tell lies about him, and then turn him over to be arrested. After dinner, Jesus took his three closest friends – Peter, James, and John – with him to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. But Peter, James, and John couldn't even stay awake with Jesus while he prayed.

### **Discussion with Children**

- Was there a time when you cried because you were very sad about something?
- Who can you ask for comfort when you feel sad?